

The Philosophy of Freedom

An Open Forum for Single Taxers

PARABLE OF THE MOOLEY STEER

Editor Independent: Many years ago on the old farm we boys had the care of the cattle.

There was a mooley steer in the herd which was driven about by the other cattle and deprived of his rights in a manner that shocked our boyish sense of justice.

The other cattle took delight in driving him away and appropriating his share of food. We set our wits to work to overcome the evil.

Lying up in the barn loft was a huge pair of horns taken from a Texas steer. We took that pair of horns and strapped them securely on mooley's head.

Next morning when the fodder was scattered out over the yard and the cattle were let out to feed, the young bloods that had been in the habit of plunging at mooley on sight, seeing the immense horns, shied off and gave him plenty of room.

He was allowed to enjoy his breakfast in peace. Alas! Our plan was a failure, for there was one fellow who was braver or more shrewd and seemed to see through the fraud. He started for mooley with a snort and gored him unmercifully. Arming against oppression does not always make for peace. We now knew that radical measures were necessary.

We caught up the belligerents and dehorned them. Equality of opportunity thus secured we had peace in our barnyard ever after.

The great body of labor may be likened unto our mooley.

The politicians, labor leaders and smart alecs are tying horns on 'em. Labels, boycotts, strikes, closed shops. Dehorning the land monopolist by the single tax will give equality of opportunity, guaranteeing to labor its full product, thus securing peace in our social organism.

L. E. HUGGINS.

Omaha, Neb.

"WHO WILL EARN THE MONEY?"

Is a question asked by The Independent in commenting on the single tax measure that passed in the British house of commons lately. As all wealth is produced by labor, the money to pay the tax will be earned by the laborers, just as all money is earned for payment of taxes and for all other purposes under any system of government. But although labor produces all wealth it does not get all it produces, the landlord claims a large portion at present and it is out of the landlord's share that the single tax will be paid. Under the present system the laborer has not only to earn his own wages, rent for the landlord, interest for the capitalist, but taxes besides. Under the so-called single tax labor will be relieved entirely of taxes, and what it now pays to the landlord as rent will go to the state for revenue. As long as governments require revenues, the revenue must be earned by labor, no matter whether the revenues are derived from single or multiple taxation or for services rendered.

JAS. S. PATON.

Toronto, Canada.

MAJORITY RULE.

Editor Independent: Recent developments in political science as well as a careful analysis of political history reveals but one peaceful method by which governments may progress toward the ideal. Political systems develop as do other departments of science. Old theories and practices must give way to new. Trust rule, machine rule and boss rule—being the fruitage of an unrestricted representative system—has evolved as a natural sequence, a system of restricted representation. This system under the titles of "direct legislation," "optional referendum" and "majority rule" but more properly designated as "the people's veto and direct initiative," furnishes the check which at this period in the development of a democratic government, has become imperative.

By its adoption the results and conditions that now seem obtainable only by sanguine revolution can and will be produced by peaceful evolution.

Prof. George H. Shibley, member of the bureau of economic research, in a circular issued by the department of representative government, says that:

"These improvements in political science are of far-reaching importance, and must soon result in the overthrow of trust rule in the nation, the overthrow of machine rule in the state, and the overthrow of boss rule in our cities. Enlightened majority rule is to prevail throughout the land and in the near future, and every class in

society will be benefited, for "on the whole and in the long run we must all go up or down together."

The outlook is startling. A great political change is nearing completion, and one that is more far-reaching than any that has ever occurred. Heretofore, the laws, except where the direct ballot prevailed, have been controlled in the interest of the few because the power of the many has been delegated, but with the adoption of the right to a direct ballot on practically all laws, special privilege will be terminated and the promotion of the welfare of the whole people will receive every possible assistance which science can give. This change to enlightened majority rule is the twentieth century revolution, and is taking place so quietly that only a few are realizing it. In a non-partisan way, and chiefly as the work of organized wage-earners and farmers, there is being ushered in the golden age—that of peace on earth and good will to men. The trusts and all forms of machine rule are to be shorn of their evil features.

That such will be the result is no mere theory. The system has been developing in this country for more than a century, and with such excellent results that no return to the rule of the few has ever occurred.

Here then is the open door to all economic and political reform. It is the final necessary step in the onward march of advancing nations. "With new powers born of progress forces have entered the world that will either compel us to a higher plane or overwhelm us, as nation after nation, as civilization after civilization, have been overwhelmed before. But if while there is yet time we turn to justice and obey her, if we trust liberty and follow her, the dangers that now threaten must disappear, the forces that now menace will turn to agencies of elevation."

Let those who still hopefully face the front lend their energies in battle for this fundamental reform.

E. O. BAILEY.

Central City, Colo.

P. S.—For a full history and analysis of this non-partisan system of majority rule, also for a full description of the present-day developments in practical politics, address the Bureau of Economic Research, 53 Bliss Building, Washington, D. C. Please enclose ten cents to pay the cost of literature. The bureau hopes that every officer of the Grange, the Unions and other non-partisan organizations will familiarize himself (herself) with what is taking place and help to hasten the change.

Labor

Cincinnati, O., May 14, 1904.—Herbert S. Bigelow, pastor of the Vine Street Congregational church, in discussing the subject "Labor," said:

Zangwill, in his "Mantle of Elijah," has made a splendid plea for peace and industrial freedom. Zola, in his novel entitled "Labor," has voiced the same protest against the present wrongs of men and pleaded for a new society in which labor, free and joyful, shall be the psalm of life and the wail of poverty and the curse of war shall no longer mingle with the laughter of the children.

It is well for the world that the great novelists are beginning to take for their heroes men who win glory, not by vanquishing their fellow-men, but by toiling for their freedom. It is well for the world, saddened by poverty and perverted by luxury, that the prophets are growing in number who proclaim a new social conscience to which the present inequalities are and ever shall be intolerable.

Zola's hero exclaims: "Ah! what misery may be produced by labor, men changed into wolves by overwork, by injustice, by bread so hard to earn, and that must be shared by other starving creatures!"

Zola's hero sweeps away the benevolent plans of the philanthropist who founds libraries and lecture halls. "All this is charity, not justice. These things might go on for years and years without hunger ever ceasing, without poverty ever being abolished. No, no! There is no means of relief possible! We must strike at the root of the evil!"

Congressmen should read this book before they dispose of the anarchists, for Zola has solved the problem. His anarchist is thoroughly converted and becomes an ardent defender of law and

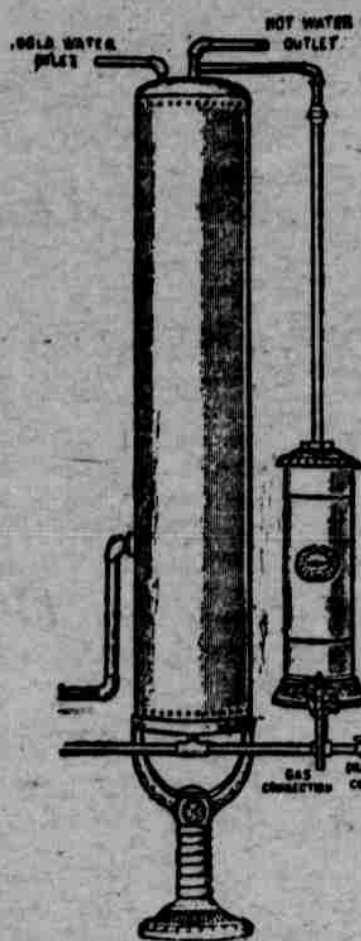
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order. Note how this miracle is wrought, O, congressman! By sweeping away the injustice which makes a man's life barren and his heart bitter.

Whether this kingdom of God on earth, this reign of brotherhood, this triumph of justice and peace, will come about as Zola believes, is a question upon which honest men differ. But come, it must, in some way—the city in which labor is all joy—the happy city that is to be realized at last "in the religion of life; the religion of humanity, freed at length from dogmas"—the city in which men shall build and not lack shelter, in which they shall sow and reap, and not faint of hunger, in which they shall weave and not shiver with the cold.

The noblest conception of God is that of a Father who loves all of his children. It follows that men are brothers, and that the fruits of justice and love between man and man—nation and nation—are proof of a vital religion.

The Proper Spirit

There seems to be a growing disposition in Nebraska to patronize our home institutions. Upon examination it will be found that is the spirit which has built up some of our most progressive and enterprising cities.

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